

BUTTE NEWS. THE NEW BOARD GOES IN

Retiring Commissioners Hold Their Last Meeting.

CLARK ELECTED CHAIRMAN

The First Business Was Signing Orders for the County Poor—Populists Hold a Reception—Appointments Which Will Be Made.

The membership of the board of county commissioners changed yesterday morning. David J. Charles, John E. Lloyd and Savin Lisa retiring and William D. Clark, Edward Matthews and Charles G. Ferrell assuming the offices. The old board met in the morning, approved their minutes to date, drew their per diem for their meeting this month and then adjourned.

The retiring commissioners then vacated their seats which were at once taken by the new commissioners who proceeded to organize. On motion of Mr. Clark, Mr. Ferrell was selected as temporary chairman and he then instructed the clerk to prepare ballots for permanent chairman. Mr. Ferrell, the only democratic member, said he considered himself entitled to the chairmanship in view of the fact that he had received the largest vote at the election. The two populist commissioners evidently did not think so, for when a ballot was taken it was found that Mr. Clark had received two votes, and he therefore took the chair and will preside over the board for the next four years.

Mr. Clark is a man of good common sense and force of character and will doubtless make a good chairman. If there should be such a thing as a division on party lines the chairman will always be in the position of casting the deciding vote.

The first business of the new board was the adoption of a resolution thanking the retiring commissioners for courtesies extended, and then they turned their attention to the care of the poor who were waiting for their monthly orders for provisions, and the first official signature of Chairman Clark was attached to such an order. During the morning session of the board the commissioners' room had the appearance of a populist levee. Among the callers to offer congratulations to Populist Commissioners Clark and Matthews were Populist County Treasurer Hinds, Populist County Auditor Davies, Populist County Clerk and Recorder Weston, Populist Assessor Allen, and Populist Assistant Auditor Hogan. Populist Judge Clancy was the only one of the happy family of populist county officials who did not call.

The new commissioners will have the appointment of county deputy and license collector, a game warden and two janitors for the court house, but more important will be the awarding of a contract for the care of the county poor and the maintenance of the poor house and hospital, also awarding a contract for county physician. Mrs. Hare, a sister of ex-commissioner Lloyd, has the present contract for the care of the county poor, but her contract will expire on the 31st of December. O. B. Whitford has the contract as county physician, but his contract will also expire on Dec. 31. The commissioners will at once advertise for bids for the two contracts, but no changes will be made at present in the appointive propositions. Chairman Clark stated that no appointments would be made until the commissioners had become thoroughly familiar with the duties of their office.

A long letter was received from Henry S. Davis applying for the appointment of detective and license collector. He spoke about his work in the populist ranks and his claims on the office he was seeking. As the board decided to make no appointments at this time the application was withdrawn.

The clerk was instructed to advertise for the medical attendance for the county poor during the year 1898, for the care of the inmates of the county poor house and also for bids for burial of the pauper dead. Bids will be received until Dec. 3.

Fred Orton, piano tuning and repairing, 12 N. Wyoming street.

Delayed the Play.

From the Chicago Chronicle. "Sam Billings was city marshal," said the ranger, "and after my first exciting introduction to him we met many times and became good friends. I stayed for some time in this city and was the recipient of many favors at his hands. He seemed to take quite a liking to me and whenever he went out to have a good time he would look me up and persuade me to accompany him. Fearful of incurring his enmity I would go with him, but his ideas of a good time did not agree with mine at all. He would invite me, for instance to take a carriage ride with him and after driving through the side streets and stopping at all the cutting saloons for a drink he would

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direct the driver to drive as fast as possible through the principal thoroughfares of the city. Pulling his gun from his pocket, he would stand up in the carriage and fire first on one side and then on the other, each shot invariably putting a round hole through a gas street lamp and extinguishing the light. Remarkable as the feat was, he rarely if ever missed putting out the light.

"When all the lights were out he would drive to the police station and as though he bore him and the next morning he would show up at the police magistrate's office and pay such fine as the justice saw fit to impose. That was all there was to it. The people were used to it and everybody was satisfied. Sam had conceived a violent fancy for one of the Wesley sisters, who were playing at Pike's variety and used to visit them at the theater and at the hotel where they were stopping. On these visits he would insist on my accompanying him, in order, as I supposed, that I would engage the other sister in conversation while he paid his attentions to Ida, the one favored by him. Pike's place had a gallery running around the entire auditorium and containing a number of private boxes, where the women of the stage used to come and assist in the sale of drinks at Klondyke prices to the habitués of the place. One night last week, when the manager in conversation with Ida and her sister, Pike, the manager, came into the box and ordered the girls to the stage. This did not suit Sam, who remarked in his pleasant manner that the girls were engaged with us at present, and that the stage could wait or they could put up something else, but that the girls could not leave. The manager went away mumbling an answer, after the sisters took their leave, saying that they did not dare run the risk of displeasing Pike. Sam said nothing, but walking to the open part of the gallery, he quickly fired six shots at the ceiling at the same time throwing a chair through the large glass chandelier hanging from the center of the auditorium. The audience followed the audience either rushing wildly through the door or jumping through the window. Sam, bidding me follow him, ran out through the stage entrance and quickly ran to the front of the house, where in his capacity of city marshal he demanded of the proprietor what the row was about. Subsequently he appeared at the police court, where he was fined, as was also your truly, both fines being paid by the gentlemanly marshal."

IS NO LONGER A MEMBER

Officer Osterman Caught Sleeping on His Beat.

WAS FIRED BY THE CHIEF

Found a Soft Bunk in the Engine Room of the Ground Squirrel Mine—His Case Will Be Brought Before the Council.

Officer Osterman is no longer a member of the Butte police force. At least he is not doing duty on the force at present and unless the council goes back on the action of Chief of Police Mulholland his suspension will be permanent. The reason why Osterman is not doing duty on the force at present is that he is addicted to the habit of sleeping on his beat. It wasn't a case of sleeping once but of making a regular practice of it. Chief Mulholland first received a pointer on it last Wednesday night. It was charged that Osterman made a regular practice of sleeping in the engine room of the Ground Squirrel mine in the eastern part of town. Osterman would stay up until visited by the roundsman, which is usually between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning. Then having nothing more to fear from the roundsman, he would retire to the engine room of the Ground Squirrel mine, which is very warm and comfortable, and go to sleep. The practice seems to have been kept up for some time and known only to employees at the Ground Squirrel. They didn't kick until a few nights ago when they rang the bell to be hoisted to the surface and could get no response. So they had to climb up to the mine and they found the policeman and the engineer stretched out side by side in the engine room, fast asleep. That made the miners kick. The thing got noised around and came to the ears of an alderman. The alderman changed a story to the Mulholland and he set to work to find out whether or not it was true. It was decided that the best evidence would be to catch the officer asleep in the engine room at night when he ought to be on his beat. Yesterday morning, about 2 o'clock, Osterman was found asleep in the engine room and was promptly suspended. It is known that many of the policemen have quite a pull with some of the aldermen, but the case in point is so flagrant that it is not likely the council will wink at or favor the offender. Last Wednesday night instructed the chief of police to suspend at once any officer not on his beat when he ought to be, and the chief intends to do this with regard to the case in point. The council also instructed the chief to alternate shifts so that each of the three crews of policemen shall work two weeks days and four weeks nights, and to have a more dignified treatment of the chief, but will be put in effect probably next Sunday.

FIGHTING A RIVER.

St. Joseph, Mo., Again at War With the Big Muddy.

St. Joseph (Mo.) Letter in N. Y. Sun. St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 29.—The Missouri river again threatens to leave this city high and dry and 10 miles from water. It is not the first time the river has left a dry season, but the year which is known as the June rise in the Big Muddy cuts across farms, washes away landmarks, and gives employment to surveyors. But the present scare is caused by something worse than a June rise. The river seems to be deliberate in its intention to break a new channel. All there is to check it is a railroad embankment on the north side of the peninsula are repaired the water will cut across the neck of land and irrigate Kansas territory. This would leave St. Joseph without any river traffic, injure railroad property, and probably necessitate a change in the water supply of the city, during which time its sanitary condition would be deplorable. It is a habit with the river when it changes its course to leave great sandbars formed in front of the city. It is no reflection on the intelligence of New York people to assert that if they never saw an exposed sandbar in the Missouri river, they know nothing about the capacity of such a formation to raise. Cities in more ways than one. When one of these arid plains is kept by reason of the fickleness of a stream, in the front of a city which has engaged in steamboat trade, it changes the level of that class of business which thrives about a steamboat landing moves as the infractions of the river demand. The entire water front of a river town of the West will probably change in more ways than one in a few years. The property holder who owns a front lot one year is four miles from the levee the next, but he only crosses his legs and whistles, because he knows that sooner or later the levee will come his way unless the river changes its course entirely, as it is now threatening to do. There is another thing for which one of these sandbars is famous. For three months in the year, during the dry season, the prevailing winds from the southwest, they blow day and night, just as they blow across the lands of Arizona and Oklahoma. Some years ago property owners of this city and a few engineers met to discuss a plan by which the Missouri river could be kept in its channel, and by which the sandbar might be removed. It was a hot day, and the sunlight was darkened by clouds of sand, which blew upon the town and settled against the windows. Just as the committee met the meeting that it would be a useless expenditure of money to attempt any removal of the sandbar, as the wind would transfer it all in the course of time.

Appropriations were made, however, and skilled engineers were employed, and the work of saving the city, and of coasting the river to resume its old course, was begun. The old style of breakwater was constructed from the Black Snake hills out into the old channel of the river. Breakwaters were also constructed on the other side. Then the June rise was awaited. It came, it changed the course of the current for awhile, and then it smashed the breakwaters, washed away more farm lands and town lots, showed a fondness for the Kansas shore, and another sandbar came up at the foot of the water and stretched its brown length in front of the city. The work of saving the city was again undertaken. For several years the winters in St. Joseph were devoted to discussing how the Missouri could be kept in its channel during the summer. The railroads were the serious sufferers, and to them is due the embankment which for many years kept the river in its old place and which gave the city a more stable steamboat landing than it had for years. But now this is threatened. The city has no money. It has applied to the rail-road commissioners for help, but there is no fund in the commission. The Missouri legislature has never been known to vote a cent for the benefit of a city, and it will not be in season in time to do St. Joseph any good if it were favorably disposed. The people of the town are tired of the antics of the Missouri river, and some are preparing to go away. It is a lamentable fact that the uncertainty of the river at this point has done more to injure business and to depreciate the value of property here than all the panics since the war.

Best Way to Kill Football.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. There is considerable talk just now about the hiring of football players for college teams. Nothing could kill the game quicker.

only too glad to meet someone from the outside world from whom they could learn what was going on. It was on November and at every fancy they were killing hogs. You're just in time, these honest old graners would say. "We are killing you some fresh meat, and we got fresh meat morning, noon and night—always the same, and I can tell you that after two or three weeks of this diet you long for something, anything besides pork. To add to my discomfort, the foot the harbor had operated on began to swell and kept on swelling until it was as big as a pail, and still we ate fresh pork. We frequently saw herds of deer and occasionally nearly ran over a bear, but never succeeded in shooting one. One night way up in San Saba county we stopped with a farmer named Cy Couchman. In his log house we hunted deer heads and deer horns, but he, too, offered us pork as a rare treat. "By this time I was so sick and my foot pained me so much that I told Dick I would go another way, and that he could leave me here to die. As I lay that night in the log house in too much pain to sleep I saw through the spaces between the logs four deer come up close to the house and the idea soon formed in my mind to shoot one of them. I took my rifle and went out to the porch to shoot a deer and get us some other kind of meat than pork. I do not know why I had not thought of it before. On foot went down so that I could again see that he could leave me here to die. As I lay that night in the log house in too much pain to sleep I saw through the spaces between the logs four deer come up close to the house and the idea soon formed in my mind to shoot one of them. I took my rifle and went out to the porch to shoot a deer and get us some other kind of meat than pork. I do not know why I had not thought of it before. 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